

SESSION LAWS

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Thirty-seventh Legislature

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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MEMORIALS AND RESOLUTIONS

CLARA OSBORNE BOTZUM

HOUSE RESOLUTION 2006

A RESOLUTION

ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE CLARA OSBORNE BOTZUM.

The Honorable Clara Osborne Botzum passed away at the age of ninety-one on January 22, 1986 in La Mesa, California.

Born in Indianapolis, Indiana she came West with her father, Edward S. Osborne, settling in the Parker area along the Colorado River in 1900 where her family was starting what proved to be a successful venture in mining and land development.

In 1932, Mrs. Botzum began an active life of civic and public involvement which would span the next fifty years. As Executive Secretary of the Northern Yuma County Chamber of Commerce, she was the driving force behind the five year effort to secure a bridge across the Colorado River from Parker to California. Dedicated on September 25, 1937, the bridge was to be instrumental in the development of the Parker area as a center of agricultural and recreational activity and on January 5, 1979 it was renamed the "Clara Osborne Botzum Bridge" as a tribute to this remarkable woman and her untiring work on behalf of the people of Parker.

In addition to her work on securing a bridge, Mrs. Botzum also worked for and secured public utility service development for portions of Northern Yuma County through the Rural Electrification Administration and with the Civilian Conservation Corps for the development of wildlife preservation and recreational facilities along the Colorado River and Lake Havasu. She is also credited helping the city of Parker to obtain its first bank and with developing area mining operations including working with federal officials during World War II and securing the government strategic stockpile in Parker.

More recently, Mrs. Botzum was an honorary chairperson in the effort that culminated in the formation of La Paz County as our state's fifteenth county, and on February 14, 1983 was honored by being one of seven outstanding individuals to receive a "Spirit of Arizona" award at the Admission Day ceremonies held at the State Capitol.

She was first elected to the Arizona House of Representatives to serve in the Sixteenth Legislative Session beginning in 1943 and also served in the Seventeenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth, Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Legislative Sessions as a member of the House of Representatives. She served with distinction on the Rules, Education, Highways and Bridges, Judiciary, Livestock and Public Lands, Fish and Game, Agriculture and Irrigation and Natural Resources Committees and also as Chairperson of the Mine and Mining Committee and Vice-chairperson of the State Government Committee. In addition, she was a member of the National Order of Women Legislators and a lifetime member of the Parker Chamber of Commerce and the Parker Community Hospital Auxiliary.

With her passing, the people of La Paz and Yuma counties as well as the entire State of Arizona lost a true and valuable friend.

Therefore

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona:

That the members of the House of Representatives deeply regret the passing of the Honorable Clara Osborne Botzum and do, therefore, extend their most sincere sympathies and condolences to her niece, Patricia Fair, and great-nephew, Michael Davis.

Unanimously Adopted by the House, March 24, 1986.

Filed in the Office of the Secretary of State, March 24, 1986.